JOTTINGS

Twenty per cent of the students at Columbia College are Jews, 8.67 per cent at Yale, and 3 per cent at Harvard.

The corner-stone of a new Temple Beth Elohim, of Brooklyn, N. Y. (Alexander Lyons, rabbi), was laid last week.

Congregation Rodef Sholem, of Waco, Tex., has started to build a $20,000 Temple. Mr. L. Migel is president of the congregation and Mr. I. A. Goldstein is chairman of the building committee.

The Montgomery (Ala.) branch of the Council of Jewish Women re-elected the following officers for the ensuing year: Miss Pauline Hausman, president; Mrs. Emile Weil, vice president; Mrs. W. B. Friedman, secretary; Mrs. Alex. Rice, treasurer.

The recently issued 30th annual report of the Brooklyn Hebrew Orphan Asylum shows that during the year ending December 1, 1908, it cared for an average of 339 inmates, at a total cost of $52,415.84, an average cost of $155.58. This asylum has lost but a single child by death during the past six years, which is a phenomenal record. The trustees announce that a charity ball for the benefit of the "Building Fund" will be given on December 15, 1909. The superintendent of the asylum is Paul Lazarus and the president Abraham Abraham.

The Intellectual Culture Committee of the Seventh District, I. O. B. B., offered a prize last year for the best essay on the subject, "The American Jew—His Religion and His Country—His Duty to Both." At the recent convention of the Grand Lodge held in New Orleans the Committee on Award, composed of Jos. Hirsh, Vicksburg, Miss.; Chas. F. Moritz, Montgomery, Ala.; Chas. Jacobson, Little Rock, Ark.; and J. K. Hirsch, Vicksburg, Miss., announced that the paper written by Moses Montefiore Schwarz, of Mobile, Ala., would be awarded the prize and that the paper would be published by the Grand Lodge.

Speaking to 1,800 Mississippi school teachers, at Natchez, Dr. Fred. J. Mayer said in a lecture on tuberculosis:

If you must kiss, impress the chaste salute on the back of the neck. There is a nerve originating in the back of the neck which leads to the heart, to the stomach and to the liver. By kissing on the back of the neck you will warm the heart, improve the digestion and save a doctor's bill by stimulating the liver. The ordinary or garden kiss, he said, never should be imprinted on the lips of the loved one, save after the use of carbolic solutions.

The ISRAELITE is quite sure that this most scientific of physicians is nearly 90 years old or under 25. A man must be very old or very young to have such extensive knowledge.

"The Judeans" is a new Zionist society which has been formed in New York. Dr. Jacob M. Gershberg, of Brooklyn, has been elected president. The object of the "Judeans" is to begin the purchase of land in Palestine and the forming of Jewish farming colonies there without any delay. A mass meeting will be held on May 29, to extend its membership to include all Jews interested in the Zionist movement. Immediately after the meeting Dr. Gershberg will go to Europe to make propaganda for the "Judeans" there and induce the Ica to hand over a part of the De Hirsch $54,000,000 bequest to the "Judeans," on the acquisition of which the "Judeans" are to be congratulated—when they get it. The movement had its inception in Brooklyn and has spread to East New York.

In commenting on "The Melting Pot" the Rev. G. R. Gebauer, of the First Unitarian Church of Duluth, Minn., extolled the Orthodox Jew and the Zionist as the real representative Jew and incidentally said that to cultivated Gentiles "the extolling of Jewish virtues and Jewish greatness is so awfully nauseating." To this Rabbi M. Lefkowitz replies in an open letter in the Duluth "Daily Tribune." He denies that the differences between Orthodox and liberal Jews is fundamental and as to chauvinism he says:

You must know that almost all the traits of our common humanity have by conscious self-exaltation been hyphenated "Christian." Such expressions as "Christian manhood," "Christian charity," "Christian love," "Christian forbearance," "Christian fortitude," etc., are altogether too common not to cause frequent spells of nausea to "cultivated Gentiles;" all the more so since, just like the virtues labeled Jewish so those denominated Christian likewise "cover a few (?) things which are not quite so admirable." The truth is, sir, that there is more harping on Christian virtue in one day than on Jewish virtue in a whole century.

This is very much to the point and undisputably true, and Dr. Lefkowitz might have said much more on this subject without exaggeration.

Seven blind men and one blind woman are being held at Ellis Island awaiting advices from Washington on an appeal to prevent deportation. The eight were stored away in various parts of the Lithunia, of the Russian-American line, two days after the ship had sailed from Libau, Russia. They were sent to Ellis Island when the ship docked at its Brooklyn pier. Acting Commissioner Murray ordered all seven to be deported forthwith, but an appeal has been taken by Irving Litswich, representing the Jewish society at Ellis Island. This would be a shocking story if true. But these people can all see.

In German slang a stowaway is called a "blind passenger" (viz., "blind tiger"—American for secret dram shop), and this, not being understood by the reporters, gave rise to the error.

It is usually customary for the rabbi to demand of the non-Jew marrying a Jew to rear and educate their offspring entirely in accordance with the Jewish religion. Naturally if the parties are very eager to be married by a Jewish minister they will pledge themselves to do this, even if they have no intention to do so. It is a well-known fact that nine times out of ten when such a mixed marriage occurs the parties desire the consecrating word to be spoken by the rabbi, not because they themselves have any scruples in the matter, but because they want to satisfy their parents. So often have these pledges been broken that one should hesitate a long time before he asks them, and hesitate, too, in performing a conversion act of this kind when the object is marriage only. A rather peculiar decision was rendered in the courts of St. Louis bearing on ante-nuptial pledges of this kind. Of course the case was not that of a Jew and a non-Jew, but of members of the same faith belonging to two different denominations. It was declared by the judge that stipulations made before marriage by which one or the other party agrees to permit the education and religious training of any children that may be born after marriage in a given religious faith can not be enforced by law. Such a decision should have the effect of making their way clear to officiate at a mixed marriage all the more cautious about exacting a pledge that both parties to the marriage will see to it that their prospective children will be reared and educated in accordance with the Jewish religion. If the courts decide as Judge Mathew G. Reynolds, of St. Louis, did, the question is perfectly useless. Rabbis may be able to see their way clear to officiate at a mixed marriage, but as a Jew, it seems, that they should have the right to officiate at such weddings only in which both parties were Jews, or if one or the other was a non-Jew, when they were converted to Judaism. A rabbi who officiates at a mixed marriage is overstepping the privileges of his office.

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